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Message Text

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R 060007Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO HON GLENN M ANDERSON HOUSE OF REP WASH DC 20515

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TAGS:
SUBJECT:

DEAR MR. ANDERSON:
- -
IN REPLY TO YOUR TELEGRAM OF FEBRUARY 3, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN FIRM AND RAPID ACTION TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF U.S. TUNA FISHERMEN WHOSE VESSELS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN WATERS CLAIMED BY ECUADOR BUT CONSIDERED BY THE U.S. AS INTERNATIONAL.

VERBAL AND WRITTEN PROTESTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR HAVE BEEN DELIVERED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SINCE THE FIRST SEIZURES JANUARY 25. I PERSONALLY PROTESTED THE SEIZURES TO THE NEWLY ARRIVED ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR AT OUR FIRST MEETING JANUARY 27 AND CALLED HIM IN AGAIN JANUARY 31 TO SET FORTH FORMALLY THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER. OFFICERS AT OUR EMBASSY IN QUITO HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE ECUADOREAN
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GOVERNMENT TO INSURE THAT OUR CONCERN IS UNDERSTOOD.

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MOREOVER, OUR CONSULAR OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY
TRAVELLED TO SALINAS, WHERE THE SEVEN BOATS HAVE BEEN
TAKEN, AND HAVE REMAINED THERE. THESE CONSULAR OFFICIALS

HAVE ASSISTED THE CREWS IN DEALING WITH ECUADOREAN
OFFICIALS ON THE SCENE AND HAVE FACILITATED COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF TUNA BOAT OPERATORS AND
THEIR MAIN OFFICES IN THIS COUNTRY. OUR CONSUL
GENERAL AT GUAYAQUIL HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TWO DAYS
IN SALINAS WHERE HE CONSULTED WITH THE BOAT CAPTAINS
AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. AMBASSADOR BREWSTER IS GOING
TO SALINAS TOMORROW.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE SEVEN FISHING VESSELS
REMAIN IN SALINAS AS A RESULT OF THE BOAT OWNERS'
DECISIONS TO APPEAL THEIR FINES AND THE CONFISCATION
OF THEIR CATCH IMPOSED BY ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES.
OBVIOUSLY WE EXPECT THE ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES WILL
GIVE FULL AND PROMPT CONSIDERATION TO THESE APPEALS.

REGARDING YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT WE SUSPEND
MILITARY SALES TO ECUADOR AND MAKE DEDUCTIONS FROM
FOREIGN AID FUNDS FOR ECUADOR, YOU MAY BE SURE THAT THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL BE ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF LAW WHICH MANDATE SUCH ACTION. I ASSURE
YOU WE ARE NOW AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN FULL COMPLIANCE
WITH THE APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE USG HAS DEFENDED THE RIGHTS
OF U.S TUNA FISHERMEN ON MANY LEVELS DURING RECENT
YEARS. EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE U.S. TUNA FISHERMEN
TO ENTER INTO ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. SOME PROGRESS
HAS BEEN MADE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAW OF THE
SEA CONFERENCE WHERE THE U.S. POSITION IS TO PROVIDE
FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO
THE FISHERIES PROBLEM AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE
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INTERESTS OF OUR FISHERMEN. SINCERELY,
ROBERT S. INGERSOLL, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT
OF STATE. KISSINGER

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